

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Agitprop (Agitatsiya i Propaganda), headed by Todor Zhivkov who is a member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, decides the policy of editorials and political articles to be printed in the press. It holds weekly meetings for this purpose with editors-in-chief of the important papers--Trud, Otechestven Front, Rabotnichesko Delo, Zemedelsko Zname, and Narodna Mladezh. On receiving the directives from Agitprop, each editor-in-chief meets with the editors of his political sections (local and foreign) and with his economic editor, who is considered the equal of the political editors, to give them the basic line to be followed and the number of articles required for a certain time.
2. Each morning the editor-in-chief calls a meeting of his editors, who submit their material in accordance with the policy set at the weekly meetings. It is then decided finally what will appear in the following day's paper, and if any changes are required they must be entered before noon. In the afternoon the material is checked by a group of three to five censors, at least one of whom represents the Army. The news editors are the last to submit their material, 99 percent of which is copied from the bulletins of TASS (Soviet News Agency) and the Bulgarska Telegrafna Agentsiya (BTA; Bulgarian News Agency).
3. The head censor of Trud and Zemedelsko Zname is Krastyu Stoychev. He was a member of the Supreme Censorship Commission of Agitprop, but during the Kostov trial he was removed on the charge of carelessness and given an unimportant position at a factory near Sofia. He was returned to Agitprop in early 1953 and was appointed censor of the above papers. Stoychev was a friend of Vladimir Poptomov, the only person who opposed the monetary reform of 1952 and who died of unknown causes a few months later.
4. Lupo Rosenstein is one of the persons at the BTA responsible for the concentration of news from Yugoslavia. He is also the commentator on Yugoslav questions at Radio Sofia. Nissim Benbassat is one of the persons at the BTA responsible for news from Turkey.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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